

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1781 - SB 2041

February 18, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes principals to apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE) for a waiver from certain zero tolerance policies and procedures. Prohibits the Commissioner from waiving policies and procedures related to firearms, aggravated assault, and drug possession. Requires applications for waivers to include an alternative discipline plan. Waivers will last for one year and must be applied for annually. Requires schools that receive a discipline waiver to provide copies of the alternative policy to students and parents at the beginning of each academic year. Requires the alternative discipline policy to be kept by the office of the Commissioner, the local education agency (LEA), and the Tennessee School Safety Center. Requires the Commissioner of DOE and the Executive Director of the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations for applications, receipt, and issuance of waivers.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- All LEAs have zero tolerance discipline policies in place. The annual number of waivers issued statewide is estimated to be not significant.
- Any increase in state expenditures to review policies and issue waivers is estimated to be not significant.
- Any permissive increase in local government expenditures to apply for and receive waivers and implement alternative discipline plans is estimated to be not significant.
- Any permissive increase in local government expenditures to provide the alternative discipline policy to students and parents or guardians is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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